

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is a response to an oral restriction requirement presented in the present application. Please enter the foregoing Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the present patent application.

A restriction requirement was presented by Examiner LeRoux by telephone on July 10 and applicants have elected the original claims which have not been canceled (Claims 14-27). The Restriction Requirement is respectfully traversed in that all claims originally presented are considered directed to a single invention and that a single search would cover most, if not all, of the claims and that the invention of the various independent claims have not demonstrated as having achieved a separate status in the art. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the elected claims, the non-elected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and it is understood that claims of similar or different scope may be presented later, e.g., in a divisional patent application.

New Claims 39-49 have been added to better describe applicants' elected invention. These new claims include an independent claim (Claim 39) in the method format to complement the other elected independent claims which are presented in other formats.

Applicants, the assignee and the undersigned attorney are all desirous of obtaining an early allowance of the pending claims of this patent application. If a telephone interview with applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of this patent application or assist the Examiner in examining the claims now pending, then a collect call to the undersigned attorney is authorized. The assignee and the undersigned attorney are anxious to assist the Examiner in the examination of this patent application to obtain an early issuance of claims consistent with the applicants' invention.

If any fees are due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment or the continued prosecution of this patent application, the Patent Office is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 in the name of International Business Machines Corporation. Since the Serial No. 09/887,739

number of total claims and the number of independent claims remaining after this amendment are less than were originally paid for, it is believed that no fee is due in connection with this paper.

Respectfully submitted,
David Singer et al.

By Kenneth A. Seaman
Kenneth A. Seaman
Reg. No. 28,113
Attorney for Applicants
IBM Corporation
(704) 365-6363